

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-16 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 17-20 are added herein.

Therefore, claims 1-20 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-16 are rejected.

Claims 1-16 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because:

- (a) it is believed that the amendment of the claims puts this application into condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner;
- (b) the amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicant believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed;
- (c) the amendments of the claims should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and
- (d) the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in